

Clinical or Community Partnerships

University of Texas at El Paso BSN

Del Sol and Las Palmas Hospitals (HCA facilities), El Paso, TX

Providence Memorial & Sierra Hospitals (TENET facilities), El Paso, TX

Thomason Hospital (county hospital), El Paso, TX

Wm. Beaumont Army Medical Center (military), El Paso, TX

Faculty: Each hospital provides service extension to the school through nursing staff who are master's prepared and function as clinical instructors to the students assigned to the respective facilities. These extended nursing staff have academic appointments in the school but their salaries are paid by their respective hospitals. These individuals hold dual/joint appointments from both a health care facility and a university and serve as members of the faculty teams. Preceptors: BSN-prepared nursing staff serves as preceptors to the 8th semester graduating seniors in both acute care and community settings. The staff is recruited from these settings and is required to complete the online Preceptor Course Certificate program. They provide supervision at a 1:1 ratio to the graduating seniors each semester/term: fall, spring and summer.

Approximate cost of implementing and maintaining partnership: none; 20% time of faculty who maintain on-line preceptor course; technical support from both UTEP and EPCC

Grant monies used: no

Expected benefits from partnership:

- arrangement addresses current nursing shortage
- increased student admissions
- offering 8th semester clinical nursing courses for graduating seniors during summer, resulting in summer graduations and shortened time for completing generic program
- enhanced partnership between academic and service institutions
- nursing staff recruitment for hospitals due to direct contact with graduating seniors

Challenges from partnership:

- lack of BSN prepared preceptors
- lack of masters prepared nursing staff to serve as clinical instructors
- burn-out with repeated supervisory obligations twice a semester, including commitment to fulfilling educational role and meeting performance expectations

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2009 Update:

Del Sol Medical Center provides funding for one clinical faculty.

West Texas Consortium of Schools

Cisco Community College
El Paso Community College
Midwestern State University
Odessa College
South Plains College

Texas Tech University Health Science Center
University of Texas at El Paso
Vernon College
West Texas A & M University

West Texas Consortium

The project is still in development; however, the premise is as follows:

- regionalize the admissions process for entry into generic programs (ADN and BSN). Students will maintain the freedom to choose the program that they want to attend, but if they are unable to be admitted to their program of choice, they can be made aware of possible openings in other schools in the West Texas region.
- develop a Regional Retention Initiative
- develop a seamless curriculum from ADN to BSN and possibly to MSN/Nurse Educator for all students in a transition programs, including LVNs

Approximate cost of implementing and maintaining partnership: unknown at this time

Grant monies used: yes, THECB grant

Expected benefits from partnership:

- improved retention and graduation rates in all generic programs, including a measurement of success of retention strategies
- improvement of NCLEX scores
- development of admission criteria for initial license programs that predicts success
- decrease duplication of resources with a regional admission process
- provide avenues for admission possibilities throughout the consortium schools as slots may remain vacant that could be filled by applicants
- provide faculty development for consortium faculty in the areas of cultural competence, simulation, new pedagogies, and technology
- design new models for resource sharing in the areas of tuition dollars, simulation laboratories, faculty teaching expertise, curriculum sharing and hospital partnerships
- develop an RN to BSN curriculum relevant to the practice arena for nursing in West Texas with particular focus on rural border and rural non-border nursing, as these are the regions with the highest vacancy rates in the state

Challenges from partnership: none identified

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